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Coup - July 2

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House Speaker Blair and Senate Presi-

through, the public interest suffers.

Chicago Daily News

19 July 27

Revolution in Afghanistan

When editorial writers gather, the conversation frequently comes around to "Afghanism." This is shorthand for the tendency to write about something dull going on in some far-away land, like Afghanistan, while skirting controversial issues just beyond the writer's nose.

But suddenly there is a revolution going on in Afghanistan. From Kabul, the capital, comes a radio report that King Mohammad Zahir Shah has been deposed. Lt. Gen. Mohammad Daud Khan has taken over the country.

The king was away at the time, sunning himself on an Italian island. Gen. Khan said he had to save the country from the "corrupt and effete" rule of the king and that he would give it "genuine democracy," so of course the first thing he did was impose martial

law. Democracy obviously can wait, as it does in so many countries where the military inflicts it on the unsuspecting people.

What all this means, either for the herdsmen of Afghanistan or for the peace of the world, we're really not prepared to say. The last we heard, Afghanistan was coming up as an esoteric place for rich tourists to visit, but having its troubles with hippies more interested in native hashish than native culture.

Will the coup succeed? Will the king ever make it back from his vacation? Will democracy come to the Mohammedan mountains?

We'll have to wait and see. And does it matter? Yes, it does. The space ship we share with the Afghans grows smaller all the time.

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